CUA NEWS

Canadian Urological Association annual meeting: Built on a foundation of volunteerism

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The CUA exists to promote the highest standard of urologic care for Canadians and to advance the art and science of urology.



he 2016 Canadian Urological Association (CUA) annual meeting is over. We know what our Canadian peers', residents', and fellows' research programs look like, we have applauded the successful candidates for research fellowships and grants, and we have interacted, socially, educationally, professionally, and scientifically with our friends and colleagues. We are back in our busy lives, trying to put into practice the educational clinical pointers passed on by our peers and visiting speakers.

The meeting is now past, but leaves us with great memories of fantastic social events, fabulous food, and exciting scientific and educational exchanges. Why was the annual meeting so successful and getting better every year? It is because of the increasing strength and importance of the CUA itself (more to come in future editorials). And while the day-to-day activities of our association is administered by an excellent staff at the corporate office, our real strength stems from the unwavering support of the many volunteers who, over the year, provide guidance to the corporate office staff, administer our annual meeting, our continuing professional development (CPD) activities, our fundraising, and the fellowship/grant programs.

The volunteers who helped us have another successful annual meeting this year included members of the Scientific Program Committee, led by Ben Chew and Alan So, Andrew MacNeily and his wife, Amina, who helped plan the social activities as the Local Organizing Committee. The CUA itself is run by its board members and committee chairs, who are voted into position (once they accept the responsibility) and serve for terms ranging from three to five years. This year, as every year, we must thank the CUA members who have devoted time and energy to make our organization so viable and are now leaving their CUA position. Stuart Oake has served as CUA Immediate Past President, Wassim Kassouf as CUA VP Communications, Karen Psooy as CUA and CUASF Secretary, Frank Papanikolaou and Sero Andonian as CUA Board Members-at-Large, as well as Sidney Radomski as Health Policy Committee chair, Ben Chew as CPD Committee chair, and Troy Sitland as Patient Information Committee (PIC) chair. These individuals have unselfishly volunteered their time and efforts to successfully make our association work for us.

Next year, our meeting will be held at the Harbour Castle Westin in Toronto. Rob Siemens and Tony Finelli and their Scientific Program Committee have already invited the speakers and are busy planning the scientific and educational aspects of the meeting; there is no doubt next year will build on the success of years past. On the social side, Mike Leveridge and Dean Elterman, the Local Organizing Committee co-chairs, are planning an absolutely stunning social program, making the most of what Toronto has to offer.

Support your organization and its volunteers; plan to attend to take part in the educational, scientific, and social opportunities our annual meeting offers. See you in Toronto in June 2017!